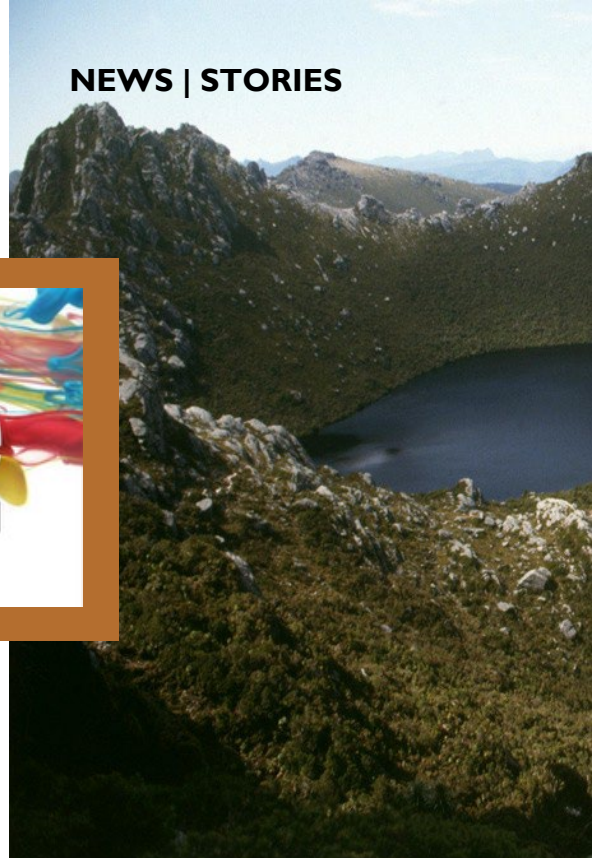


APRIL/MAY, 2023

NEWS | STORIES



WELCOME!

Here is the print version of the April/May 2023 reCharge.

This is made available to you so you can catch up with articles released over the past two months on the Tasmanian Baptist website.

You could also read them there:
tasbaptists.org.au



SUBSCRIBE TO WEEKLY EMAILS

To subscribe to ReCharge for your weekly email please visit:

tasbaptists.org.au/subscribe/

Blessings!

Jenny Baxter

Communications Manager

Tasmanian Baptists

159 Wellington St Longford TAS 7301

(03) 6391 2202

ps To contribute, query or comment please email me on jenny@tasbaptists.org.au

Tasmanian Baptist Union 2023 CALENDAR

Pastors and Leaders Muster (Hobart)	20-21 February
Tasmanian Baptist Council	25 March
Easter Sunday	9 April
Mid-Year Assembly (Newstead)	5-6 May
Tasmanian Baptist Council	17 June
Pastors and Leaders Muster, family-friendly (Devonport)	11-13 July
Pastors and Leaders Muster (Launceston)	12-13 September
Tasmanian Baptist Council	23 September
Annual Assembly (Longford)	20-21 October
<i>EmpowHer Day of Courage</i>	<i>18 November</i>
Tasmanian Baptist Council	2 December



Youth Gather Monthly



Youth Update

Baptist Youth Activities in Greater Launceston

What are our youth up to in the north of the State? Roger Radford (Summerhill) fills us in on the unified approach taken by Launceston and Longford churches.

Launceston Combined Youth

7-9pm, 4th Friday every month

I am excited to share with you all the wonderful events that the greater Launceston area Baptist Youth has had in 2023.

It has been an incredible year filled with fun, fellowship, and growth. We have had the pleasure of coming together and enjoying each other's company through a range of exciting activities.

The first event we had was Bowling, where we had a friendly competition and shared many laughs. We all appreciated the chance to let our hair down and relax in each other's company.

Our second event was held at Newstead Baptist, where we enjoyed a range of games that challenged our strategic thinking and teamwork skills. It was great to see everyone working together and having a great time.

More recently, we had a Laser Tag event, where we gathered for an action-packed day of running around and dodging lasers. It was a great opportunity to let loose, have fun, and bond with each other.

Plans for the year ahead

As we move into 2023, we have an exciting lineup of events planned.

On the 28th April, there will be a **Sports and Skate** event. Then Basketball games on 26th May, where we can show our competitive spirit and have a great time cheering each other on.

There will also be a **Trivia Night** on 23rd June, which will be a fantastic opportunity to learn new things and share our knowledge with each other.

We are still planning our fourth event on 28th July, and will confirm the details soon. Be sure to stay tuned for more information about this exciting event.

Please come!

I am grateful for the wonderful year we have had so far and am excited about the upcoming events for 2023. I encourage all youth to come along and get involved in these events. They are a great way to meet new people, have fun, and grow in faith together.

For more information, please reach out to Daniel Hutchison (minister@newsteadbaptist.org.au), Liam Conway (liam@riverlands.org.au), Jessie Radford (jradford@summerhillbaptist.org.au) or Roger Radford (rradford@summerhillbaptist.org.au).



Taking Great Strides in Basketball

**LBA Baptist
Launceston Baptist Basketball Report**

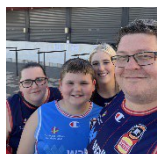


LBA Mens' Teams Huddle

Over the New Year period, two of our teams, a men's and a women's team, attended the 50th National Baptist Basketball Carnival in Adelaide. We also sent one junior player who had the fantastic opportunity to suit up and play with an Adelaide team. Although none of our teams made it to the finals this year, it was a thrilling experience to be back at the carnival after a two-year hiatus due to the global situation. The camaraderie, sportsmanship, and faith-filled atmosphere were truly inspiring. In even more exciting news, the 2024 National Baptist Basketball Carnival will be hosted by Launceston! This will be a wonderful opportunity for our community to showcase our beautiful city and welcome fellow Christian basketball enthusiasts from around the nation.

Season news

Our LBA Baptist regular season has recently kicked off, and we have seen significant growth in participation. This season, we have six A Grade men's teams, four A Grade women's teams. Plus ten B Grade men's teams, and five B Grade women's teams. Games are on Saturday nights at Elphin Sports Centre and Newstead College, and we encourage everyone to come out and support our talented teams.



Questions? Info? Want to get involved? Email Jessie and Roger Radford: Baptist@Launceston.basketball. We are looking forward to a fantastic season and the continued growth of our LBA Baptist Basketball League.

Roger Radford

At left, Jessie, Roger and their kids

An Easter Exercise



An Easter **Exercise**

*Exscribo Divina

SACRED AGENTS is a blog by Andrew Turner, Director of Crossover

Ten or twelve years ago, while chatting socially with a woman who worked as a psychologist, I mentioned rather sheepishly that I had a fear of flying. “You should come and see me,” she said, “I can help with that.” Before I could deflect, she added, “You know, often it’s associated with a childhood trauma. Were you in an accident when you were young?”

Indeed, I was. Intrigued, I asked what could be done, and to her financial detriment she just said, “Well, come and see me if you like. But you might find that just having had this conversation will have helped.” What? A passing conversation of all of two minutes?

But then the strangest thing happened. When I next flew – some weeks later – the fear was just gone. I am still absolutely amazed by this, that just a few words can have such power, power beyond argument or persuasion or logic. It’s like she had spoken directly to my nervous system.

It’s time to get your pen and notebook!

If you’ve been following Jesus for a while, Easter can be a little strange. We celebrate the heart of the good news, but it doesn’t seem like *news* anymore. We know how it goes. God bless all the preachers stretching their heads to come up with a fresh angle on this old story! But Easter can just come and go, if we let it.

So here’s a little exercise I’ve found helpful to keep the heart from dozing: Copy out Mark 14-16 and Isaiah 53. Copying Scripture* is *slow*. Slow enough that sure, I notice little things I hadn’t considered so much before. But it’s not about that – it’s about letting the words hit me in a different way. I’ve just been immersing myself in the wonder of it all. Opening myself up to “just having had this conversation” with God.

Making a difference

My intention here isn’t to know more. Perhaps it’s to know *better* or *deeper*. My fear of flying wasn’t logical, and it wasn’t fixed by following logical steps. I *did* get information, but strangely sideways, so that it got deep enough in me to make a genuine difference.

This is not just something we can do for ourselves, but with others too.

Perhaps there’s someone in your life who’d be willing just to read through it with you? Not for analysis or explanation or even persuasion – you might find there’s other powerful ways that God works his healing magic both in *and* through you.



Andrew Turner is Director of Crossover for Australian Baptist Ministries.
Crossover exists to Help Australian Baptists Share Jesus.

*You can call it Exscribo Divina if the people you’re trying to impress only speak Latin.

Passion and Perseverance are essential



Leadership Elements

Necessary ingredients for Thriving Churches

Michael Henderson, gives insight into some key aspects of leadership.

One of the hardest parts of leadership for me is sustaining passion and perseverance. But they are both essential.

This is the call of leadership; to have both passion and perseverance. If you are to lead, you must have passion for what you do and some level of perseverance as you do it. Grit, in other words, as described in Angela Duckworth's book "Grit". (An excellent book by the way.)

Leading must involve your passion. The person with the most passion is usually the leader. This is not the person with the biggest voice or most "charisma", but with the most passion for the task at hand. Without passion, it is hard to have the energy to keep going.

AND FURTHERMORE . . .

Leadership must also involve your own perseverance. You need to develop perseverance in yourself. Can you see things through, or do you want to give up before we get somewhere? Do your interests change too fast, or can you maintain focus?

AND, as a leader/pastor you must develop both passion and perseverance in your church, in the community around you.

Baptists expect the church to join with their pastors in leadership, decision-making and spiritual oversight. This demands, that as leaders, we have a vision of developing passion and perseverance in the leaders around us, and in the congregation who will make decisions with us.

IT GOES BEYOND YOU

Don't just focus on developing your own passion and perseverance. Remember to develop it in your church, your community. Help them see how it all comes together in the vision and mission of your church.

If only the leader or pastor has passion, then this model will ultimately fail. If only the congregation has perseverance to keep going, then our model of church will fail.

It is only when we all have a developed understanding of what our collective passion and perseverance is that we will truly lead together. It is only when this happens that we will ultimately change our communities and world. Anything short of this is just survival.

BEING INTENTIONAL – WITH GRIT

None of this happens by accident, but it can be developed if you are intentional about it.

Attached is a series of questions to ask, "How gritty are you as leader?" And, "How gritty is your church community that is around you?"

Your answers, and how some leaders around you answer, will reveal a heap about your grit.



If you would like to speak to me about grit, and developing it in yourself or your local church, don't hesitate to get in touch: michael@tasbaptists.org.au

Grace and Peace,

Michael Henderson

*Michael is a member of the Tasmanian Baptists' **Mission and Leadership Development Team**.*

Deep Thought April 2023



Deep **Thought** – A bi-monthly feature in reCharge

The God of Bethel

*While **Maddy Svoboda** was away on leave over Christmas, God used the time to help him recall some moments of big impact in his life.*

In the Scriptures, there are familiar beats and rhythms that get hit on a regular basis. Examples include: “The Lord is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness”, “I will never leave you nor forsake you”, and “Do not fear”.

Another one of the regular rhythms and sentences that comes up throughout the narrative of the Hebrew Scriptures is this refrain, “I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob”. It comes up in some significant places.

Over my recent time of long service leave, I was reading through Genesis and came to another phrase in Chapter 31 that, for the first time in my life, stood out to me: “I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.” (Genesis 31:13 NIV)

I was familiar with the refrain of “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob”, but not so much “the God of Bethel”.

What was happening here?

Yahweh is speaking these words to Jacob, a man who had an incredible experience of him in a place he would name Bethel.

In this place, he had a dream that there was a ladder or stairway going up to the heavens. There were angels going up and down the ladder.

God reaffirms the promises made to his grandfather and father and they are made to him.

When Jacob wakes, he cries out: “Surely the Lord was in this place, and I was not aware of it” (Genesis 28:16 NIV). He anointed the rock he slept on as a pillar, and called the place Bethel or ‘house of God’.

Moving right along

Fast forward to Genesis 31, and we see God identifying himself as *The God of Bethel*. All of this is deeply personal to Jacob. Yahweh meets him where he is at, in order to call him to the next step of obedience.

This is the beauty of the incarnation of Jesus: he meets us where we are at by becoming one of us and dwelling among us (see [John 1:14](#)).

For me, he encountered me on the banks of the South Esk River in Hadsden after a horrendous 18th birthday party. Again, he encountered me at a Christian group camp shortly after where I was overwhelmed by the love of God.

Questions for you

As you reflect and pray, have a think about the following questions. You could even use your journal to write down your immediate responses. Perhaps God will meet you with the next step of obedience, as God did with Jacob.



- How did God meet you where you were at?
- What does this mean for your involvement in the mission of God?
- What does this mean for those in your life, who Jesus loves and you are in relationship with? How might God be wanting to meet them where they are at?

Maddy Svoboda is the pastor at Summerhill Baptist, and represents the Greater Launceston churches on the Tasmanian Baptists Mission Leadership Team.

Geoff Maddock in Tasmania



Local **Mission**

Relocating for May Mission Month!



Geoff Maddock, is the Tas/Vic Leader for Baptist Mission Australia

MY GOALS AND CONNECTIONS

As the State Leader for Tasmania, it is my privilege to relocate to Tasmania for the month of May to *walk alongside** our Baptist churches.

First and foremost, I seek to listen and learn what God's people in Tasmania are experiencing as they step out in mission – across the street and around the world!

I'm also honoured to be sharing in church gatherings each Sunday across May and attending pastors' gatherings and Tas Baptist events throughout the month.

I would also hope to visit with anyone interested in intercultural mission (local and global) or curious about the work of Baptist Mission Australia as we adapt our organisation to a rapidly changing world mission context.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with a phone call, text or email to arrange a time with me. I will be in the North West for the first 10 days, then around Launceston for the next 10 days, finishing my time with just over a week in the South of the state.

Geoff Maddock

0436 470 535 | gmaddock@baptistmissionaustralia.org

SCHEDULE OUTLINE

In the Northwest (Ulverstone). 30th April to 10th May

30.4.23—Wynyard Baptist Church 5.5.23—Tas Baptists Assembly (Newstead) 6.5.23—Tas Baps Assembly (Newstead) 7.5.23—Ulverstone Baptist Church

In the North (Launceston – Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies). 10th to 22nd May

10.5.23—Launceston Pastors' coffee catchup 14.5.23—Newstead Baptist Church 17.5.23—Launceston Pastors' coffee catchup 21.5.23—Gateway Baptist Church

In the South (Hobart). 22nd to 29th May

28.5.23—Citywide Baptist Church

I'm looking forward to meeting with as many Tasmanian Baptists as possible, and walking alongside during May.

VIDEO: Watch to find out more about Alongsiders: <https://vimeo.com/813385481>



ALONGSIDERS

Baptist Mission Australia is intentionally developing an “***alongsider***” approach.

We do this around the world as our intercultural team members come alongside people in their local communities and embody the good news by word and deed, in ways that make sense in that culture.

We’re also committed to doing this as we come alongside mission partners across the world and in Australia. This is identified in our 2021-2025 Strategic Roadmap where we envisage “*new dynamic missional-focused partnerships with Baptist associations and churches across our Australian movement.*”

Following conversations with Tasmanian Baptist leaders, engagement with churches and our own discernment processes, we sense God’s Spirit encouraging us to make ourselves available to journey with Tasmanian Baptists on your missional reimagination journey. [From the ‘Tasmanian Baptists Alongsider Statement’, May 2022]

NEWS April 2023



Atrocities in Myanmar

A call for prayer via Australian Baptist Ministries

The Asia Pacific Baptist Federation¹ condemns in the strongest terms possible the recent aerial bombing of civilian villages in Paziky, Kanbalu of Sagaing region in Myanmar, which resulted in the deaths of over 100 innocent civilians.

This attack is a gross violation of international humanitarian law and a blatant disregard for the sanctity of human life.

As members of the Baptist World Alliance², who stand for justice, peace, and respect for human dignity, we are deeply saddened at this heinous act. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who have lost their loved ones, homes and belongings in this inhumane attack.

We ask our member conventions and churches to pray for the people of Myanmar during these difficult times and to stand in solidarity with them as they seek justice and peace.



Grief Companion Training

Do you know people who are grieving? Would you like to learn how to support them? You could attend this seminar, being run by New Mornings³ at Ulverstone Baptist.

WHEN 9:30am-4:30pm, Saturdays 20th May AND 3rd June 2023

COST Day 1 only – \$75 (Conc. \$55) | Days 1 + 2 – \$120 (Conc. \$85)

WHERE Ulverstone Baptist Church Hall, 60 Alexandra Road, Ulverstone, 7315

INFO Contact New Mornings: griefsupport@newmornings.org.au | 03 6411 6212



¹ <https://www.apbf.org/>

² <https://baptistworld.org/>

³ <https://newmornings.org.au/>

Stand with the People of Myanmar

FROM BAPTIST MISSION AUSTRALIA

More than ever, the people of Myanmar need to know that others stand with them. They need to know they are not forgotten. *Two years on from a military coup, Myanmar is rocked by violence, oppression and instability.*

The economy has collapsed, there are severe shortages of food, fuel and other basic supplies. Families are forced to separate, churches continue to be damaged. Pastors have been arrested. The military continue to ignore basic human rights.

Since the coup, more than 3000 people have been killed and 16,000 people detained. Almost 1.6 million people are displaced within Myanmar and 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers from Myanmar live in refugee camps on the Thai and Indian borders and within other towns in Thailand and India.

Please invite your faith community in sacrificially giving to our **Stand with Myanmar** appeal⁴, so that together we can make a tangible and practical difference in the lives of people who continue to live with trauma and uncertainty. Watch the video: <https://vimeo.com/814090216>



Geoff Maddock Visits Tassie!

As the Baptist Mission Australia State Leader for Tasmania, it is my privilege to relocate to Tassie for the month of May to walk alongside our Baptist churches.

First and foremost, I seek to listen and learn what God's people in Tasmania are experiencing as they step out in mission – across the street and around the world! I'm also honoured to be sharing in church gatherings each Sunday across May and attending pastor gatherings and association events throughout the month.

I would also hope to visit with anyone interested in intercultural mission (local and global) or curious about the work of Baptist Mission Australia as we adapt our organisation to a rapidly changing world mission context.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with a phone call, text or email to arrange a time with me. I will be in the North West 30th April-10th May. Then around Launceston 10th May to 22nd May. And will finish my time in the South of the state from 22nd May to 29th May.

Following conversations with Tasmanian Baptist leaders, engagement with churches and our own discernment processes, we sense God's Spirit encouraging us to make ourselves available to journey with Tasmanian Baptists on your missional reimagination journey.

Geoff Maddock, Baptist Mission Australia | gmaddock@baptistmissionaustralia.org | 0436 470 535



Geoff and Sherry Maddock

Mid-Year Assembly

Friday/Saturday 5th/6th May, Newstead Baptist (NB alternate venue!)

The May Assembly is coming up soon! All Tasmanian Baptist churches are eligible to have at least two voting delegate, plus pastors and Tas Baptist Council Members. As well, interested individuals are welcome to attend. However, all attendees need to register.

Assembly papers were sent to Church Secretaries via email on Thursday 6th April.

PROGRAM

7-9 pm, Friday 5th May: Dinner (\$30)

9:30am-3pm, Saturday 6th May: Morning tea and Lunch (\$15)

Payments and registrations due to the Tasmanian Baptist office by Monday 5th May 2023.



Views from Tas Baptist Assembly, Oct 2022

⁴ <https://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/Support/Stand-with-Myanmar-Appeal>

What's Going On?

The Baptist churches in and around Launceston want to work more closely together and point people to activities going on in other Baptist churches.

reCharge NEWS highlighted one church's activities each week during April 2023.

What's Going on – Gateway

To enquire about any of these activities please email: noeleagling@gmail.com



GATEWAY ACTIVITIES L to R: Painting at Artway; The Artway team; Men's basketball; Eat, Share, Pray

GATEWAY'S MINISTRIES MOST WEEKS:

- **SHEKINAH HOUSE TEAM**
Volunteering and low-level counselling with homeless people 11am till 3pm, Tuesday to Friday
- **BIBLE STUDY**
Ladies study with coffee 3rd and 4th Tuesday of each month
Wednesday group 5:30 – 6:30pm Wednesday
Eat, Share, Pray Midweek Group 6:30-8:30pm, Thursday
- **ARTWAY**
Art Therapy and Lessons 12 noon – 2pm Wednesday and Thursday
Craft Group 6:30-9pm, Wednesday
- **WALKING GROUP**
Ladies 10am Thursday
- **BAPTIST BASKETBALL**
Saturday Evenings Find out more at: gatewaybaptistchurch.com.au/our-programs/basketball

What's Going On – Newstead

To enquire about any of these activities at Newstead, please email info@newsteadbaptist.org.au



WALK THIS WAY

2-4 pm first Sunday of the month

Family friendly short walks aimed to be an intergenerational opportunity to create space in creation to walk and talk.

LIFE GROUPS

- Tuesday Life Group 7-9pm in Prospect
- Thursday Life Group 7-9pm in Newstead All Welcome!

IN THE COMMUNITY

- Chat'n'Choose 9:30-11:30am Thursdays, at the church.
- Crafts, Conversations, Friendship, Fun. Men and Women of all ages are Welcome.
- Drop-in Centre meets every Friday 1-3pm in "The Lounge" at the church Games for all generations, just drop-in to meet new friends
- Alpha at Newstead Baptist Thursday nights from 1st June 2023

What's Going on – City Baptist

City Baptist Church in Launceston has people, as well as activities, that people can connect with relationally.



Some of the faces at City Baptist, L-R: Tracey and Stephen Avery; Jeff McKinnon; Jenna Blackwell; Kay Hunter

- Street chaplain (Stephen Avery), coming alongside those in need on our streets.
- Advocacy
 - Housing provided for refugees (Ivan James)
 - The homeless and those fleeing Family and Domestic Violence (Kay Hunter)
 - Climate activism (Sally Staley, Wendy Miller and friends)
 - Drop in Centre in the Red Dove Café, 6pm-7pm Saturdays, 52 weeks per year (Jeff McKinnon).
- City Baptist Community Garden – 69 Station Rd, St Leonards (Steve and Marie Pearce)
- Learning Circle (hosted by Garry Billing and Jeff McKinnon) for those wanting to grow in discipleship, spirituality and mission (three-week sessions)
- Young adult dinners with Jenna Blackwell
- Friday Frolics – Intergenerational social outing on last Friday of the month (Merelyn Briton)

What's Going On – Summerhill

For more information about any of these activities please contact Maddy Svoboda: pastor@summerhillbaptist.org.au



- Primary school mentoring at Summerdale (as well as training of mentors), runs weekly throughout the week.
- Playgroup, 10am-12pm, Wednesdays during school term facilitated by the Salvos.
- Chat and Choose, every Friday morning during school terms.
- Craft Group, Saturday mornings once a month.
- High school Youth Ministry, 7-9pm, 2nd Friday of the month (when not involved with the combined youth initiatives).
- Life groups, throughout the week.
- A service in our local aged care facility. We hope to extend to another service soon.

What's Going On – Riverlands

There is so much going on at Longford! To find out more, or to attend/participate in any of these ministries please check their website (riverlands.org.au), call 6391 2202, or email admin@riverlands.org.au.

Office hours are 9am-12pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.



Snr Pastor Rodney Marshall, Meals on Wheels, Stay & Play, Associate Pastor Liam Conway

- 10-11am Mondays and Tuesdays, Libraries Tasmania, Adult Literacy – during school term) 11am-12pm Mondays, Prayer Group
- 10am-12pm Tuesdays, Threads of Friendship
- 5.30-9pm Tuesdays Young Adults Group – off site
- 10am-12pm Wednesdays, Bible Small Group

- 9.30-11.30 am Thursdays, Stay & Play – during school terms
- 3-5pm Thursdays, Girls Youth Group – during school terms
- 11.30am-1.30pm. Thursdays, Bible Discovery Group
- 7-8.30pm Thursdays, Bible Small Group – fortnightly, off-site
- 10.30am-12pm Fridays, Neighbours – fortnightly
- 7-9.pm Fridays, Riverlands Youth group – 3rd Friday of each month, during school terms
- 11am-1pm Fridays, Meals on Wheels – operate Monday-Friday each week

What's Going On – Perth

Being active in the community

For more information about any of these

activities, see the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/PerthTabernacle



Perth Baptist has a long-standing relationship with the residents of Eskleigh Home for people with disabilities.

- Weekly Sunday Café Please get in touch for locations: 4pm, Adults | 4pm, Young People
- Bread Run 6:45-7pm, Tuesdays
- More than just picking up the remainder of the day's bread from a local bakery, this is a time for people to pick up pre-cooked meals (when available), coffee, and discussion.
- Home groups Please get in touch for locations: 10am, Thursdays | 7:30pm, Thursdays.
- Ladies Craft Group: 1:30pm, Tuesdays
- Men's Fellowship: 10am, Alternate Wednesdays

Associate Pastor, Matt Henderson



Ministry Profile

Matt Henderson, Hobart

Associate Pastor **Matt Henderson** was inducted at Hobart Baptist Church in February 2022, so it's high time to find out about him. Read on to discover where he came from, and what his ride has been like over the last year.

Growing Up

I was born in Fairfield, Sydney but I've lived in Tasmania since I was very young. My family moved around a lot and we lived in many homes right across Hobart. I also spent a lot of my childhood on my grandparent's farm in Geeveston. Tasmania was a wonderful place to grow up, and although I considered moving interstate as a young adult, I'm now very glad that I stayed here.

I love the 'smallness' of Tasmania. Our community here in Tasmania is still small enough that it is possible to build and maintain strong and close-knit communities. We are so blessed to live on an island with so much natural beauty, and because Tasmania is so small, all of that natural beauty is accessible in a way you can't find in many places in Australia, or anywhere else. Kylie and I believe that Tasmania is the best place in the world to raise children.

I grew up in a very loving family. My older sister has a disability, and because of this I grew up with a different perspective about diversity, inclusion and people with special needs. My wife, Kylie, and I met at a young people's Bible study, eventually marrying in December 2006. Kylie and I have two boys, Daniel (15) and David (10). Both of our sons are on the Autism Spectrum. I also have an older son, Isaac (23). Kylie and I recently became grandparents. Our granddaughter's name is Dawn.

Kylie works as Citywide's Accounts Manager, and does similar work for HBC as a volunteer. Kylie feels led to serve churches in the area of finance, and she also assists a couple of other churches in the Baptist Union in this area.



The Henderson family at Isaac's wedding in 2021

Growing Up

I was raised in a Christian family and became a Christian when I was nine, on a children's camp at the Blue Lagoon Christian Campsite.

Unfortunately, I had negative experiences of churches as a child, and did not attend a church for a long time. I became serious and committed about my faith and working for Jesus in my mid-twenties when I became involved with a community of Christian young adults and families and got involved with children's ministry and camps.

Growing up, my family attended very traditional Brethren churches. I was attending Eastern Shore Brethren Assembly when I met Kylie, who was a new Christian attending there because her mum attended there. After we got married, we attended another Brethren church in Hobart, where I worked for a year as the Sunday School coordinator. However, we became increasingly uncomfortable with the teaching around the role of women in these churches. Then, after Daniel was born and began exhibiting early signs of being on the Autism Spectrum, we felt increasingly excluded from that community.

We spent a lot of time un-churched, as we didn't know how to navigate fitting into a church community as a special needs family.

Finding a Church Home

We really struggled to find a church that was accepting of a special needs family. However, when we visited Citywide's Lenah Valley campus in 2015, we were immediately blown away by how welcoming and accepting the people there were. We became part of a church family there for the first time. When Matt Garvin arrived in 2017, he showed both myself and Kylie a way of following Jesus that lit a fire for both of us to become more active in serving.

At Citywide I discovered, developed and built my skills, stepping into areas of service and leadership I had previously shied away from. While there, we experienced Christian community in a very different, and much more fulfilling way, than I had ever experienced before. We became more open as individuals, more open as a family, and more willing to share with others.



Matt and Kylie, 2023

As a result of encouragement at Citywide, I got some theological training. This challenged me to develop and practice leadership skills. While there, I learned a lot about being part of a community of Jesus followers. I learned that I had leadership skills and I learned a lot about teamwork and church governance.

Our time at Citywide was a pivotal time of personal growth for both myself and for Kylie. We grew up spiritually there, and some very special people mentored us. Citywide is a place and community we will always have tremendous love for.

Best Advice Received

“

**BUILDING A STRONG
CHURCH COMMUNITY IS
ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE,
AND WHAT JESUS IS
DOING IN THEIR LIVES**

Tasmanian
BAPTISTS

Matt Henderson
Associate Pastor Hobart Baptist Church



What Matt does now

Now, I am the Associate Pastor at Hobart Baptist Church. I wear many hats, and it's both challenging and a lot of fun. My first job is to learn. This is my first time serving in pastoral ministry, and there are a lot of mistakes to be made, and a lot of learning to do. I see my most important task as building relationships within the church community.

Our senior pastor, Stephen Baxter, has a lot of big picture stuff to do with Tas Baptists, so I try to handle as many of the small picture, but just as important, details at Hobart Baptist Church (HBC). Much of my work involves liaising between different teams.

I oversee HBC church service planning, including our livestreaming, and a lot of our social media interactions. As well, I work with Stephen on our vision and direction for HBC, and our teaching plan and roster. I also do fairly regular preaching at HBC.

Leaving a church community like Citywide where we had built up deep roots over seven years was a costly and difficult change for us.

However, we have found the community at HBC to be welcoming, accepting and full of wonderful people. The culture is very different and adjusting has taken a little while for us.

I am still adjusting to working in pastoral ministry. Thankfully, I love the challenge and it is a blessing to have a great mentor to work with in Stephen. I am quite introverted, so there are many aspects of my work I find challenging, but also rewarding.

From a family standpoint, working pastorally with special needs children is a different kind of challenge. It would be fair to say that even after a full year here, we are still adjusting – but its been largely positive.

It's all about P-E-O-P-L-E

What's the best piece of advice I've been given? Building a strong church community is not about structures or programs, it's about the people and what Jesus is doing in their lives. Kylie and I would both appreciate prayer for managing the balance between our ministry work, and the needs of our family.

Short 'n' Sweet

I am looking forward to . . . seeing people grow in their relationship with Jesus.

I am worried about . . . how negative the public voice of Christianity often is.

I am confident that . . . as I learn, I will make a lot of mistakes.

I am joyful about . . . the rich diversity at Hobart Baptist Church.

I would like to change . . . how we think about disability and inclusion in the church.

I am at my best when . . . I'm part of a team.

Around the Churches, Apr- May 2023

Every two months you can catch up with the latest news in Tasmanian Baptist Churches.



North

GATEWAY

COMBINED SERVICE

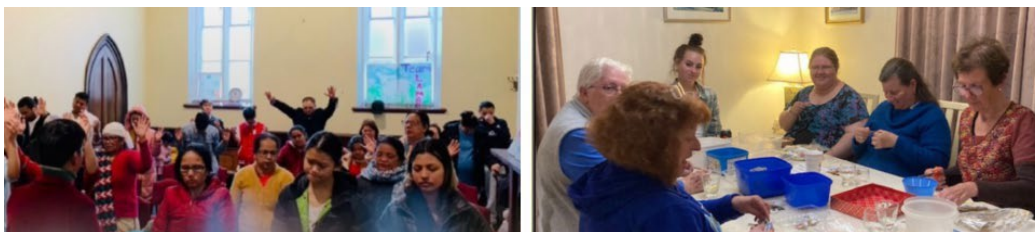
On Sunday 30th April we had one of our 5th Sunday Combined Services in which people from Gateway, Agape and Gateway Nepali Fellowship join together. These have been so enjoyable in the past and we anticipate another great meeting.

PLANS FOR MAY MISSION MONTH

During the month of May, we will have a variety of speakers sharing from a number of Missions that Gateway is connected with, including Prison Fellowship, Shoe Boxes, Thailand, Haiti, Shekinah House, Rahab Ministry,

STAMPS!

Gateway Ladies Pizza and Stamp Cutting Night took place recently, where they trimmed stamps in readiness to be sent to QLD to raise funds for Baptist Mission Australia. The used stamps, and national collection raises approx. \$70,000.00 every year! Gateway member Jill Ashdown is the "Tasmanian Stamp lady".



Gateway Nepali Fellowship; Missions Stamp Group meet

CITY BAPTIST, Launceston

EASTER | YOUR PRAYERS APPRECIATED!

We had lovely services over Easter – the Good Friday reflective service was a particular highlight for many, working through a Protestant take on the Stations of the Cross.

City Baptist is still prayerfully seeking a more **permanent home to gather in** – we would appreciate your prayers for/with us as we seek God's guidance.

IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY

Members in our community continue activism and pastoral work among migrant communities, the street community and with regard to climate action, representing Jesus' (and our) heart for **going to the margins**.

Jeff McKinnon and Garry Billing have started a home-grown discipleship opportunity titled **Learning Circles**, for people of all backgrounds, who are interested in growing in discipleship, spirituality and mission – learning the ways of Jesus.

If you would like to know more, please contact Jeff (jeff@citybaptistchurch.net).

IN OUR THOUGHTS

John Tomkinson passed away in late March. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Gwen and the family. David and Pat Jacobs celebrated a milestone wedding anniversary.

NEWSTEAD

HUTCHISON FAMILY UPDATE

Newstead Baptist Church is very pleased to announce the safe arrival of its newest member, **a baby boy, Rafael** (Raffy)

Warren Hutchison. Raffy was born at 1:56pm on 3rd April and weighed 9.8 pounds (4.46 kgs).

Congratulations to Dan and Maria, Skylah, Octavia and Boaz for this exciting addition to the family.



Dan with Skylah, Octavia and Raffy; Playing Scrabble at the Drop-In Centre

DROP-IN CENTRE

Our **Friday Senior's Drop-in Centre** has recently dropped the "Senior's" from their name in order to better align with our Strategic Plan.

People of all ages are now welcome to attend the Drop-In Centre each Friday from 1pm until about 3:30pm. Activities include good conversation, tea and coffee, yummy food (cake on special occasions!), darts, eight-ball, and a range of board games including scrabble and upwords.

We really appreciate the willingness of the older members of our congregation to embrace change and the future vision of our church and we look forward to what is in store for this special ministry.

FAMILY FUN WALKS

Newstead Baptist Church has **partnered with Scripture Union** to promote a series of Family Fun Walks. These monthly, short family-friendly walks are on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 pm, and easy to get to for those in or near Launceston.

All walks are manageable for families with young children, although not all are pram/stroller- friendly. Our walks so far have been a great opportunity to meet new people and create deeper conversations around our discussion topics. For example, "Are you feeling full or empty?" for recent Trevallyn Dam walk.

All northern Baptist Churches are invited to join us at any of the upcoming walks listed below. This list of walks, along with Scripture Union's bushwalk series, can be found at <https://bootsnall.sutas.org.au>, including some useful preparation and safety tips.

Anyone from other local churches or the surrounding community are also welcome.

Upcoming walks

- 4th June Youngtown Regional Park
- 2nd July Lilydale Falls
- 3rd September Gorge Circuit
- 8th October Tamar Island
- 10th November Old Macs Farm



THE POINT

BAPTISMS

The church was blessed with the baptism of the Cousens family at Greens Beach on the 24th of March: Adam, Sarah, Erica and Tom. So great to see the family growing in the Lord.

PASSOVER CELEBRATED

On Palm Sunday, The Point Baptist Church welcomed Mark Rogers from *The Friends of Israel*, who conducted a Passover Seder meal as part of the Sunday service. The event was greatly appreciated by the church, and helped understanding of the significance of the Passover event.



Baptisms at Greens Beach; Mark Rogers of Friends of Israel

Northwest

LATROBE

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On March 19th we celebrated our Harvest Festival. The bread, water and the sheaf of wheat along with the Bible, were centre of place, as they remind us of the basic things needed for life.

Food items were brought and displayed, and Pastor Ralph shared with us a reading from Leviticus reminding us of the need to be continually thanking the Lord for all our provisions.

The food was available for purchase after the service and the money raised along with remaining items was given to Gran's Van. Gran's Van operates in Devonport to help feed the homeless and people struggling to feed themselves.



SASSAFRAS

PLEASE PRAY!

Although it would be true to say our congregation is “getting on”, we have suddenly experienced quite a few ‘sickies’!

Please pray for David’s back op; Sheryl’s leg op; Gordon’s cancer struggle; Jean and Karl’s Covid attack and Frans’s back attack! That is a third of our church! Join us to pray for their rapid recovery in every aspect of this attack. We ask in Jesus’s Name: (John 14:14)

WESTBURY

WELCOME LITTLE MACEY

On 18th March, Pastor Matt Holloway, Lacey and big brother Larry welcomed Macey Kate into their family. Let’s celebrate with them for a safe arrival.

Matt and Lacey with Larry, and Macey



WYNYARD

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

- Recently, 17 of our ladies enjoyed a day out with JUST GIRLS to Stanley, where they visited Highfield House, and Joe Lions cottage.
- Many people attended a day of fun and fellowship at the Church Family picnic at Railway Institute hall in April..
- Due to inclement weather, the combined churches Good Friday service was held in our church rather than in Guttridge Gardens as planned.
- Chat n Choose continues to meet on Thursday morning in the school term.
- Wednesday Get Together meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month when people meet for morning tea, and fellowship and carpet bowls and table games.
- The Food Hub continues to operate on Monday and Friday.

FRANZ AND HEIDI BROSCH

We are pleased to have been able to welcome our associate Pastor Franz and Heidi Brosch into our church family,

They are having a great input into our church services with Heidi in the worship team and Franz on the keyboard.



Franz and Heidi Brosch

South

CITYWIDE

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA

On 5th March we were again involved in the Clean Up Australia Day at three different locations. We did not hold a service at Mornington that day, and at Lenah Valley had a prayer time for those not in the field, linking into some of the sites for a report on what was happening. Evaluation of the day will see some changes for next year.

RENOVATIONS

There has been some energy and money expended in our first stage of some renovations. Our front rooms have been painted and refreshed with new carpet, windows and blinds. Also there has been significant hours and work effected on our roof in a bid to fix numerous leaks. Fund raising is underway for stage 2.

MISSION PARTNERSHIP

Our BMA grant towards outreach to the Hindu community in Hobart has seen the purchase of a 12-seater bus and employment of a coordinator for two-days per week. to facilitate community services. This is now up and running. Praise God.

ANZAC DAY

In conjunction with the local RSL, we've had another exciting **Anzac Day in the Park** at Lenah Valley. This has grown to be a significant annual community event, this year with an estimated attendance of 800.

We offer various crafts and activities to suit the whole family, all with an Anzac Day theme. Sausages, drinks and Anzac biscuits are given away. The public get involved and everyone is assured of a fun time. Conversations are had, links are being established, and Citywide is blessed as we serve.



Good Friday dawn service; Lenah Valley clean-up team; Anzac Day in the Park

CLAREMONT

GARAGE SALE

Claremont Baptist members cleaned out their garages and storerooms to hold a very successful Garage Sale.

While we benefited financially the purpose was to open our doors to our community. We offered a free sausage sizzle and tea and coffee which gave us time to chat to people. At least four people told us they never knew there was a church on the corner (it is a quite inconspicuous building!) Church families got to socialise too and there was a wonderful atmosphere.

Unfortunately, the event also proved to be a Covid super-spreader, so, with church the next day, by Good Friday and Easter Sunday our numbers were significantly reduced to only eight attending on the Sunday!

A moving and intimate service, a wonderful time of rejoicing that Our Lord has Risen! On Good Friday we were also able to share in coffee and buns at Edge Anglican as has become our tradition.



Garage Sale Day at Claremont

HOBART

SANCTUARY SUNDAY

On Sunday 19th March, Hobart Baptist celebrated Sanctuary Sunday when all our congregations gathered to worship together. This includes the Karen Community, Mabuhay (Filipino), Vietnamese Fellowships, as well as Hobart Vision Church (Korean). During the service, Yvette Ambrose was baptised.

THE VIETNAMESE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

From 11-14 April, almost 200 registrants from the mainland and Vietnam took over the building for their annual conference. Our Vietnamese Family Fellowship were pleased to be able to host them.

KAREN WEDDING

Congratulations to Karen couple Pan Tay and Nya Le, who were married on Saturday 15th April by Joel Ortiz.

PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS IN KYIV

Pastor Anton, who we support in Kyiv, sent this message on 1st May. Please pray for him and the faithful people there who are providing hope, help and lodging for refugees:

There was a missile attack 25km south of our refugee centre. Some of our men have been working in the rescue team and were able to help save some of the people in the attack.



SANCTUARY SUNDAY: Korean Youth dance; followed by a wonderful morning tea; Vietnamese Conference; Karen Wedding

Tasmanian Baptists Gather for Assembly



ABOVE Scenes from May Assembly held at Newstead Baptist, 5th/6th May 2023

We are Tasmanian Baptists

Well-Grounded . . .

. . . is the Theme for 2023

The Gospel mission, Baptist structures, our changing society, our church responsibilities, our challenges as Christians and the escalating needs of our world were all highlighted at the May Assembly.

There was a strong sense of looking at how the here and now will affect the ongoing and future function of mission. There was an emphasis on harmony, working together, following Jesus and making him known.

What's happening in the world

Strong messages about exploitation, the complexities of mission and current social attitudes were given by Paul Manning (Baptist World Aid), Geoff Maddock (Baptist Mission Australia), and Tas Baptists' Mission Director Stephen Baxter.

Each invited us to consider what is happening in our immediate contexts and in the global context of social thought and business practices.

The changes in our society and world challenge the work of churches

Stephen Baxter spoke of the vacuum that is left in society when there is a deliberate move away from the values that formed it, a rejection of the idea of a higher authority, and no concept of God. He presented the heartbreaking outcome of this decline in terms of an increasingly individualistic society where there are rising levels of anger, violence, broken relationships and children in care.

Stephen challenged us to be Jesus-centred, committed to mission, building community and operating in freedom to be the best that church can be.

We heard elements of these principles in reports from the churches. It is always encouraging to see how people are addressing the issues in their context, working with what they have and seeing growth in attendance, ministries and impact.

God is good!

There was talk of sowing seeds of hope, faith, discipleship and the breaking down of generational and social barriers. The general message was that the work is hard and never ending but God is good. Geoff Maddock's idea of inhabiting and living out the treasure of the Gospel is highly motivating and relevant to all of us as followers of Jesus.

There was a strong sense of looking forward

Throughout the day, there was a chance to catch up with others and hear about their journeys. There was a strong sense of looking forward, of continued commitment to mission, and of operating in the freedom of the gifts that we have been given for service.



Views of Amy Assembly at Newstead Baptist, 5-6 May 2023

Kairos education opportunity

It was good to hear about the planned Theological Education course through Kairos Universityⁱ, specifically structured for our Tasmanian context, to equip people for ministry. This also is consistent with the views expressed by the speakers of looking for a new approach to meet needs and building the strength of our spiritual witness in our State by enabling students to pray, plan and learn together.

We pray that this localised training will be transformational and, as Stephen said, that Tasmania will be, “not fragile because of numbers, but agile because of courage.”

Let’s boldly speak the name of Jesus

It was reassuring to see that the strategic plan that has had many hours of analysis, planning and discussion poured into it is leading us into a new phase described by Matt Garvin as ready to “...stop talking deconstruction and talk construction; move from closed to open; move from ideas to actions”. For what purpose? To speak the name of Jesus into poverty, rejection, abandonment, loneliness, disappointment and grief and to see healing and life emerge from the darkness.

Thanks to all involved in Assembly for the encouragement to stay well-grounded and outward looking.



By Linda Guy, Gateway Baptist Launceston

ⁱ<https://kairos.edu/>

Psalm 91 – A Devotion



For You to Ponder – Psalm 91

What Secret Place?

By Frans Ammerlaan, Sassafras Baptist

Every so often you fall over some gem, hidden in plain sight, in God's Word.

The more you stare, almost in disbelief, at the opening statement of Psalm 91, the more unbelievable it seems. After learning the psalm by heart, the enormity of the truth displayed, dawns.

Perhaps some are slower to appreciate God's love so obviously shown to whoever might want to be acquainted with it. Anybody at all! You or me

There is no mistake though!

The guarantees He gives for your presence in the Secret Place, are awe-inspiring.

*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
Psalm 91:1 (NKJV)*

The foundation is that if you do dwell in this secret place, you are in fact in the presence; the protection; the radiance; the love; the guidance of the Creator of the universe.

Once you say: "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust", the walls he erects to protect you are nothing short of amazing. On an on!

*I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust."
Psalm 91:2 (NKJV)*

Almighty protection

In the refuge, under the softness of His wings of protection, you will not experience diseases or pestilences. Just hide behind His truth for protection from bullets during the day and diseases during the night; or even sudden destruction during the day.

*He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge;
Psalm 91:4 (NKJV)*

Neither shall any plague come near your place. Not only that, but He will also tell His angels to look after you in the way you live.

Everyone around you may be struck down, even close by, but it shall not come close to you. Just look and see how the non-believer fares, He says.

*A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.
Psalm 91:7 (NKJV)*

Even more stunningly, here follow some more guarantees because you have made the Lord the Most High, your refuge, “**No evil shall befall you**”!

*Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,
No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.
Psalm 91:9-11 (NKJV)*

And there is much more!

They shall carry you in case you hurt your foot on a stone. You will also be enabled to stomp on a lion and a cobra underfoot.

*In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
Psalm 91:12-13 (NKJV)*

God's love becomes really apparent when He says: “Because he has set his love upon Me therefore, I will deliver him”. “I will set him on high because he has known My name”. (Psalm 91: 14, NKJV)

He will give us an answer when we call on Him. As well, He will be present when we are in trouble and deliver and honour us!

He will satisfy us with long life and then show you, and me, His salvation.

*He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him . . .
With long life I will satisfy him,
And show him My salvation.”
Psalm 91:15-16*

What does it really mean to you, now?

There is a real resting place available. A real spiritual power base in which we are one with our God and Father. One with all life and all power, with all presence of “I am, I am, I am”.

You can then listen to the silence. The peace for those who wait to hear “All is well”.

In this closeness we can, and should, tell Him what we need and want so our lives can proceed in harmony and a happy wellbeing.

Sadly only a few come here because they are persuaded that circumstances control our lives.

The truth is, incredible though it may seem, indirectly the soul directs its own path in this God's Law. It becomes obvious that He wants to fulfill our slightest wish and want. Our only requirement is to believe and trust in the power of our Father, our company and Maker. Only believe and this ultimate reality becomes the reality of our lives. We create our reality when we see through the eyes of God. Psalm 91 shows the way, all we need to do is to apply the principles He has laid out for us to follow. So simple! If it was difficult, who would be able to do it?

Rest your weight on this psalm and be greatly blessed. May God bless you always!

What does it all mean?

“
**THERE IS A REAL RESTING
PLACE AVAILABLE.**

**A REAL SPIRITUAL POWER
BASE IN WHICH WE ARE
ONE WITH OUR GOD AND
FATHER.**

Tasmanian
BAPTISTS

Fran Ammerlaan (Sassafras)
Reflecting on Psalm 91

Fran Ammerlaan plans to publish a book of devotionals he has written, this one included.

reCharge NEWS May 2023



Women's Collective

FOR WOMEN IN LAUNCESTON

Calling all women in Launceston and surrounds who are interested in growing in their faith-in-action journey. You might be leading or interested in leadership, serving, or wanting to grow in faith that leads to action. This is a new space for you! Join with other women who want a safe space to process and learn together.

No life qualifications necessary. This is not a small group, or a Bible study. It's a collective of women who are serious about learning and living in the ways of our good God, doing the journey with others, and hopefully having some laughs along the way.

Get in touch to express interest or find out more: jenna@tasbaptists.org.au |

gabi.dunn@allsaints.network



Jenna Blackwell; Gabi Dunn

About us:

Jenna Blackwell is Tasmanian Baptists' Mission Leadership Coach. Gabi Dunn works for the Anglicans. They are housemates, great friends, and peer supports in ministry. With the support of their organisations, they are collaborating to bring a new space for women.

No, they don't think events/gatherings have to be gender-specific. But yes, they acknowledge the complexity of life and history, and that sometimes you just need a space with other women.

Advocacy and support for Myanmar

NATIONAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

Adopted 17 May 2023

The National Council of Australian Baptist Ministries [ABM] stand in solidarity with all the church communities from Myanmar that are members of State Unions affiliated with ABM. We grieve with them as they witness their family and friends displaced, persecuted, and killed at the hands of the Myanmar military.

We note, that according to the United Nations¹, an estimated 1,584,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) were reported across Myanmar as of 30 January 2023 and there are more than 1 million refugees and asylum seekers in neighbouring countries. Church buildings have been destroyed and pastors detained.

We call on the Australian government to:

- **Increase humanitarian visas** to refugees from Myanmar, particularly from ethnic areas such as the Chin, Kachin, Karen and Karenni States. This is where people have been displaced and waiting for settlement for upward of 35 years.



¹ https://www.burmalibrary.org/sites/burmalibrary.org/files/obl/2023-02-17-UNHCR_External-Myanmar-Emergency-Update-en.pdf

- **Increase humanitarian aid** to these ethnic areas that struggle to receive international support due to Myanmar Government restrictions.
- **Increase pressure on the Myanmar government** through further sanctions against individuals and companies associated with the Myanmar military. In addition, with further action at ASEAN and the UN.
- **Increase pressure on the Indian Government** to issue exit permits to refugees who have already been granted Australian visas.

We commit ourselves to prayer, to continue to speak out on behalf of the people of Myanmar, in particular those connected to our church community members from Myanmar, and we commit to providing material support to displaced communities in Myanmar and border refugee camps.

Alongsiders

MAY MISSION MONTH

No matter where you are, you can journey alongside your neighbours and friends.

Being an alonsider means listening, showing hospitality, bringing peace and humbly sharing the good news of Jesus. It means praying and seeking the Spirit's leading. It means loving the people God has put in your world, as well as loving the world.

Being an alonsider means sharing God's love in genuine, active and relevant ways. It means partnering together with each other and God – sending and being sent, giving and receiving. Working together as partners in God's mission. Watch the video to find out more²:



Stamps for Overseas Mission

HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR BAPTIST MISSION AUSTRALIA

For over 50 years, Australian Baptists have collected and sold postage stamps to raise money for Baptist Mission Australia (baptistmissionaustralia.org/Support/Stamps!). This simple fundraiser generates about \$70,000 every year! Accumulations, old stamp albums, postal history and other stamp memorabilia are also very welcome.

Jill Ashdown, of Gateway Baptist, oversees this ministry in Tasmania, and anyone can assist by collecting stamps. Stamps received by our churches can be delivered to the Tasmanian Baptist State Office at Riverlands Longford.

What to do

- **Prepare the stamps** by cutting the stamps off the envelope, leaving a 5mm border around the edge. Collect a bundle in a box, envelope or bag.
- **Drop them off to Riverlands Longford**, 159 Wellington St, Longford. The office is open 9am-12pm Mon/Tues/Thu/Fri. Or else, call to arrange a suitable time: 6391 2202.
- **Other questions** Contact the Tasmanian 'stamp lady' Jill Ashdown: 0439 354 849 or mjashdown@netspace.net.au



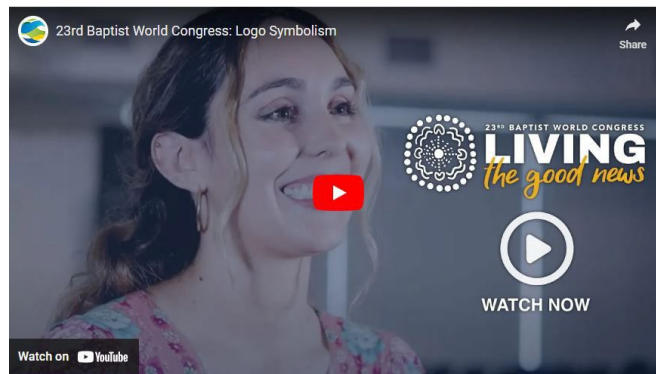
Stamp sorting and trimming night at Jill Ashdown's place

² https://vimeo.com/821166582?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=49301909

23rd Baptist World Congress

LIVING THE GOOD NEWS
Brisbane, 7-12 July 2025

Watch the video explaining the symbolism behind of the logo for the Baptist World Congress 2025³.



The Creation Discovery Centre

GOOD CONVERSATIONS

The Creation Discovery Centre, based at Seahorse World Beauty Point, has had an amazing summer tourism season. The Centre is run by many of our people who attend The Point Baptist Church, which also meets on the premises.

During the summer, many hundreds of visitors including numerous non-believers have taken Christian resources, Bibles and tracts. We praise God for one woman who gave her life to the Lord at the centre in March.

Email Craig Hawkins (tas@creationdiscoverycentre.com) if you would like to hear about the latest developments and testimonies from the museum.

Here are a few stories:

- **Di is an atheist** who came in seeking answers and left encouraged with a Bible after hearing the gospel. Mark and Betty came in to buy fossils for their grandson at the end of the day. Two hours later they left after going through the museum, which was not part of their original plan. Mark said, "I have never before heard the message tied in with real history."
- **Pray for Carla** who had been witnessed to for over three years by a faithful Christian and came in while a school group was receiving a presentation. After a while she went to the front counter to speak with Rachelle and her friend saying, "It all makes sense now". She repented of her sins there and then, which included occult involvement, and now needs to find Christian connections in the rural area where she lives.



Tearfund's Rubbish Campaign

PLASTIC, PLASTIC, PLASTIC

New campaign highlights the human cost of our global plastic waste crisis

The Rubbish Campaign⁴, by Christian agency Tearfund, highlights the human cost of the global plastic waste problem and calls on Australian households to join the effort to address the rubbish crisis.

As Australian Christians, let's unite to address the urgent waste crisis that is unfolding: in our households and around the world. Already suffering the worst impacts of COVID-19, extreme weather and hunger, growing landfills are making poverty worse for vulnerable communities around the world.

Between 2000 and 2019, plastics production doubled and plastic waste generation more than doubled, with nearly two thirds of this coming from plastics with lifetimes of under five years. (OECD, 2022⁵).

Tearfund is encouraging Australians to be part of the solution and to demonstrate their care for their global neighbours by signing their petition⁶.

The petition calls on the Australian Government to do all it can to influence global negotiations and ensure that this plastics treaty helps end the world's rubbish problem.



³ youtu.be/g-nyMx-koq0

⁴ tearfund.org.au/rubbish-off/why-the-rubbish-campaign

⁵ oecd.org/environment/plastic-pollution-is-growing-relentlessly-as-waste-management-and-recycling-fall-short.htm

⁶ <https://www.tearfund.org.au/rubbish/sign>

PAGE FOR YOUR NOTES



Tasmanian Baptists
159 Wellington St Longford TAS 7301
(03) 6391 2202